

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) An optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk, comprising:

a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the optical disk having two recording layers through an objective lens; and

a light receiving device to which light reflected from the optical disk is directed through said objective lens and a beam splitting device,

wherein:

said beam splitting device has two first light receiving areas for detecting a push-pull signal and a second light receiving area for detecting a focus error signal, and

a configuration is provided such that the center of the optical axis of the reflected light in said beam splitting device is made to lie within said second light receiving area for detecting the focus error signal.

2. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

lines defining said three light receiving areas comprise three straight lines and a curved line.

3. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

lines defining said three light receiving areas comprise three straight lines, and each of at least two angles formed between respective ones of these lines is more than 90 degrees.

4. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

when the beam from said objective lens is made to focus in the recording layer nearer to said objective lens from among said two recording layers of the optical disk, the reflected light from the recording layer farther from said objective lens from among said two recording layers is applied to said second light area for detecting the focus error signal.

5. (Currently amended) An optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk, comprising:

a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the optical disk having two recording layers through an objective lens; and

a light receiving device to which light reflected from the optical disk is directed through said objective lens and a beam splitting device,

wherein:

said beam splitting device has two first light receiving areas for detecting a push-pull signal, a second light receiving area for detecting a focus error signal and a third ~~fourth~~ light receiving area including the optical axis of the reflected light.

6. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:  
said beam splitting device comprises a hologram device.

7. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 5, wherein:  
said beam splitting device comprises a hologram device.

8. (Original) An optical disk drive apparatus comprising the optical pickup apparatus claimed in claim 1.

9. (Original) An optical disk drive apparatus comprising the optical pickup apparatus claimed in claim 5.

10. (Original) An optical pickup apparatus for reproducing information from an optical disk, comprising:

a semiconductor laser applying a beam to the optical disk having two recording layers through an objective lens; and

a light receiving device to which light reflected from the optical disk is directed through said objective lens and a beam splitting device,

wherein:

said beam splitting device has two first light receiving areas for detecting a push-pull signal and a second light receiving area for detecting a focus error signal, and

the amount of the push-pull signal detected in said two first light receiving areas for detecting the push-pull signal is more than 50 % of the total amount of the push-pull signal obtained from said optical disk.

11. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:  
lines defining said three light receiving areas comprise three straight lines and a curved line.

12. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:  
lines defining said three light receiving areas comprise three straight lines, and each of at least two angles formed between respective ones of these lines is more than 90 degrees.

13. (Original) The optical pickup apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein:  
said beam splitting device comprises a hologram device.